

Town of Natick
Council on Aging Board Committee
Community-Senior Center, 117 East Central Street
Monday, February 11, 2019, 7:00PM – 9:00PM
Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: William Grome, Chair; Andrew Eschtruth, Vice Chair; Elaine Ostroff, Secretary, Judy Keefe, Harriet Merkwowitz, Connie Pitt, Sue Peters, Roberta Ciarfella, Sal Pandolfo, Judy Sabol

Associate Members Present: Karen Oakley

Associate Members Absent: Cari Ryding

COA Staff: Susan Ramsey, Director, Council on Aging

Guests: Abby Walters, Research Associate, Center for Retirement Research at Boston College

Representatives from other Boards present:

1. William Grome, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm
2. Public Concerns – no members of the public in attendance
3. Guest Speaker: Abby Walters, Research Associate, Center for Retirement Research at Boston College – Presentation: Governor’s Council on Aging report “Aging in Massachusetts Shaping the Future” Abby presented an overview of the Governor’s Council on Aging established in 4/2017. Listening sessions were held across the Commonwealth resulting in a framework and initial recommendations. In 2018, 5 work groups formed (Caregiving, Employment, Housing, Transportation & Innovation & Technology) a compilation of their recommendations and blueprint published December 2018. Abby summarized the focus and outcomes for each workgroup, entertained questions and provided handouts and resources
4. Council on Aging Director, Susan Ramsey
 - a. 50th Anniversary Celebration Update – Susan shared the schedule for acknowledging the Council’s anniversary on March 28th. The day will kick off with a breakfast, free activities throughout the day, cake, and afternoon concert.
 - b. FY2020 Budget – The budget was presented to Finance committee. No recommendations for change presented.
 - c. Senior Energy Savings Program – The COA will be working with Jillian Martin Wilson in launching a new program to benefit senior homeowners. Owner occupied dwelling may be eligible for up to a 500.00 grant to address home energy improvements identified through a MassSave Energy Audit. Seniors will be matched with an Energy Concierge who will help seniors every step of the way.

The program is modeled after a program in Winchester and hopes to serve 100 seniors. Applicants must be 60 years of age or older, own and occupy their home, and have income of no more than \$70,000 for an individual and \$85,000 for a couple.

d. Launch of cable show Frank & Mary in Natick – The first show can be viewed on Pegasus and the second taping is planned for 2/15/19.

e. Request to Commission on Disability – Susan has made a request to the Disabilities Commission for funds to install an automatic door opener on the family restroom at the center.

f. Other – Susan indicated that a work group will be convening to review the feasibility of means tested elderly exemption program modeled after Sudbury's program.

5. Chair's Report – William Grome

a. Sub-Committee's statement of purpose – Bill encouraged those who have not indicated committee preferences to let him know their wishes. Harriet Merkowitz requested clarification on the committee assignment process and adopting committee goals. Bill will follow up with members.

b. Recommendation to amend Rules of Governance relative to appointing executive committee – Bill distributed a proposal to amend the Rules of Governance for review at the next board meeting.

c. Other

6. Liaison Reports

a. Friends of the Natick Community-Senior Center – Judy Keefe – Reported the group has 346 members and is planning many events including a clambake on 6/21, square dancing, ballroom dance, and an arts presentation as a result of recent grants received. Susan indicated the group is coordinating with the COA but expressed concern that the public is unclear on the role of the Friends and COA.

b. Commission on Disability – Elaine Ostroff – Sue Peters shared with the board that review of scholarship applications is underway and a strong field of applicants is expected.

c. BayPath Elder Services – Harriet Merkowitz – Harriet reported home care and meals on wheels service numbers for Natick residents.

7. Committee Reports

a. Rules of Governance – Sal Pandolfo – No meeting; no report

b. Diversity – Cari Ryding -

b. Housing – Roberta Ciarfella – no meeting; no report

8. COA Board Concerns – none noted

9. Director Concerns – Susan recommended a review of sponsorship guidelines to bring continuity and equity; and expressed a need for there to be a useful life study and plan in place for the building.

10. Secretary's Report – Minutes of January 14, 2018

11. Adjourn